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The Difference in Opportunity Cost for Ex-Cons in Blue-Collar and White-Collar Workplaces

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Oral Presentation O2.3

**THE DIFFERENCE IN OPPORTUNITY COST FOR EX-CONS IN
BLUE-COLLAR AND WHITE-COLLAR WORKPLACES**

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The ability to reenter the workforce after a conviction is an important factor in how an individual responds to contact with the criminal justice system. This study seeks to determine whether blue or white collar workers suffer most in terms of reduced wages and income after a conviction by using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. This data follows a large cohort of young people from 1997 through 2004. In the end the results from OLS regression analysis support the social underclass theory that says offenders who are blue-collar workers have a higher opportunity costs than offenders who are white-collar workers in terms of lost wages.